up a panel to suggest ways and means for improving the railways;

(b) if so, whether this panel has recommended privatisation of several railway sectors;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the panel;

(d) the number of recommendations examined by the Government;

(e) the steps taken to implement these recommendations;

(f) the segments which have been allotted/proposed to be allotted to private sector and details of proposals received in this regard; and

(g) the number of employees likely to be rendered surplus as a result thereof and whether those employees would be absorbed in other segments of operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No panel has been set up to suggest ways and means for improving the railways.

(b) Railway transport is reserved for the public sector in the new industrial policy of the Government. An internal committee of Advisers in the Railway Board has been constituted to examine areas of possible privatisation of railway activities within this policy framework. The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

(f) Some railway catering establishments are proposed to be privatised.

(g) No employee will be retrenched.

Recovery Rate of Cancer Patients

1093. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recovery rate of cancer patients in the country is lower than that of the rate in advanced countries;

(b) if so the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide medicines at lower cost to the poor cancer patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). There is no reliable data to indicate that the recovery rate of cancer patients in India is lower than that of the rate in advanced countries. However, a large number of cancer patients in this country come for treatment at an advanced stage of the disease when no meaningful treatment is possible. Therefore, in the National Cancer Control Programme a much greater emphasis is now being given on prevention and early detection of cancer.

(c) In Government Hospitals treatment is provided to cancer patients either free or at a subsidised cost depending on the financial status of the patients.

New Coaches for 'Palace on Wheels'

1094. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the Government of Rajasthan to pay its share for manufacturing of new coaches for the 'Palace on Wheels';

(b) if so, the details and the out come thereof;

(c) the other steps being taken by the Government for manufacturing new coaches for this train;

(d) whether the number of passengers travelling in the train is decreasing; and